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13 April 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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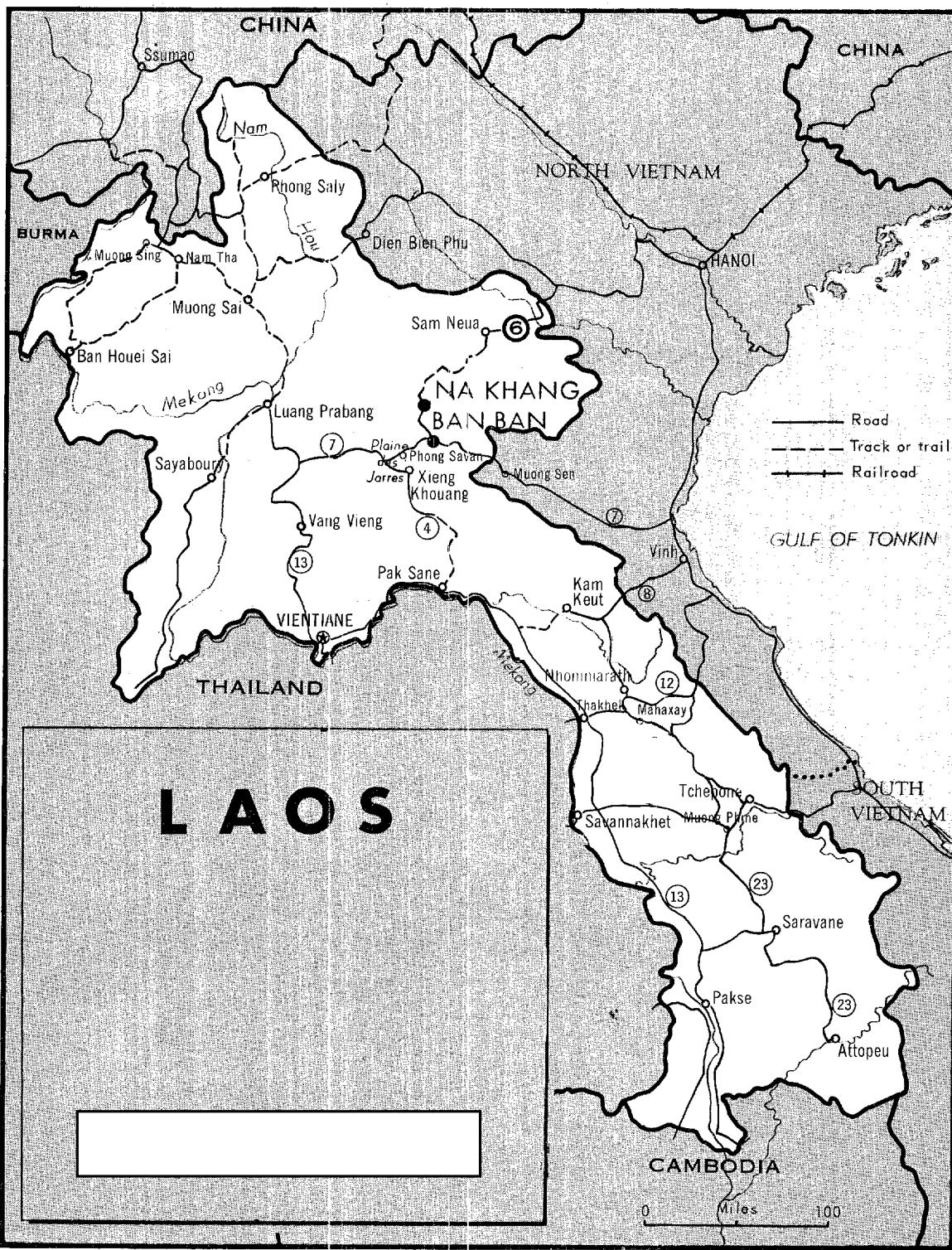
6. Notes: [redacted] Communist China - Argentina; South Korea; India-Pakistan; [redacted]

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Laos: The North Vietnamese appear to be engaged in aerial resupply of advance Communist positions in northeastern Laos.

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On the night of 7 April aircraft "from the east" were [redacted] circling over Communist positions near Na Khang in the hills north of Ban Ban. The next night additional aircraft, [redacted] were spotted dropping supplies in the same general area. Hanoi has 14 to 18 IL-14s.

These flights may reflect a one-time response to the particular tactical situation in the area, where the Communists have been pressing to gain control over Route 6. Occasional flights to other key areas--presumably on an ad hoc basis to provide emergency support--have been noted since the Soviet airlift ended in the fall of 1962.

On the other hand, these flights could presage more systematic aerial resupply efforts by the Communists. US and Laotian air strikes at key transportation points, coupled with the impending rainy season, are likely to make overland resupply operations increasingly difficult. [redacted]

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Berlin: The Ulbricht regime has renewed its bid for negotiations between the "two German states" and between the GDR and "the special territory of West Berlin."

At a press conference in East Berlin yesterday spokesmen for the regime-dominated National Front avoided any direct threat to Allied or German access as a consequence of last week's Bundestag meeting. However, they warned of an immediate response if the Bundesrat meets in West Berlin or if the city is the setting for anything of a "provocative" nature.

In an editorial published on the first day of the Easter tide pass visits, Neues Deutschland indicated that West Berliners crossing over to visit relatives in East Berlin will encounter a heavy barrage of propaganda directed against political ties between West Germany and West Berlin. The paper echoed earlier warnings by the regime that events of the past few days will have "serious consequences" for renegotiation of the pass agreement, which it suggested may be postponed until after the West German elections in September.

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EEC-EFTA: [The Common Market may be floating the idea of preferential free trade area arrangements with European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries for certain products.]

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[According to [redacted] the US Mission in Brussels, an arrangement of this sort for paper products was recently offered through an intermediary to three Scandinavian countries as "personal proposals of a key EEC Commission official." The official said that the EEC expects many such agreements in the future and is trying to negotiate them with other countries, including Switzerland.]

[Arrangements of the sort apparently being considered are incompatible with GATT and with the US objective that the benefits of any trade liberalization resulting from the Kennedy Round be shared on a most-favored-nation basis. Moreover, free trade in specific products in EEC-EFTA trade might serve to revive interest in a preferential all-European free trade area, which the US has in the past strongly opposed.]

[The source is convinced that the reported EEC offers are inspired by the French and believes they "fit well with French industrial and foreign policy objectives." This is presumably a reference to the idea of closer "practical" cooperation between EEC and EFTA industries not involving formal ties between the two communities--an idea to which the recent De Gaulle - Wilson talks have given additional point.]

[The US Mission notes commission officials have been guarded in their comments on their current talks with EFTA countries and is uncertain to what extent the reported offers have commission endorsement.]

[redacted]

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Communist China - Argentina: Peiping has concluded a contract for one million tons of wheat, according to the head of the Argentine Grain Board. The Chinese negotiators were described as anxious to get the wheat as soon as possible and the total will be shipped over a six-month period. Trade sources state that Peiping is paying substantially lower prices than under last year's contracts. China has now arranged for the import of about 4.5 million tons this year, and further negotiations with other Western suppliers are expected later in 1965.

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*South Korea: An estimated 3,000 students in Seoul staged a violent demonstration against the South Korea - Japan agreement early this morning. The demonstration was precipitated by police arrests of 53 student leaders last night. The student leaders had earlier been working to bring agitation against the agreement to a head on 19 April--the anniversary of the 1960 student revolt.

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India-Pakistan: Border clashes continue to plague relations between India and Pakistan. While both governments are working behind the scenes to prevent the incidents from expanding, tempers remain high because each side tries to derive maximum propaganda advantage from each incident. The most dramatic of the recent incidents began last week, when Indian and Pakistani forces clashed in the remote and swampy Rann of Kutch area, some 120 miles southeast of [redacted]
Karachi.

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